

SUZIE AND THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

Characters:

Mr. Lynn
Mrs. Lynn
Suzie Lynn
Tommy Lynn
Gregory Brent
A group of teen age boys and girls

Scene: The Lynn family porch. A group of teen agers are dancing and singing:

We're goin' to a good old-fashioned hoe down
We're goin' to have a jubilee
We're goin' to a good old-fashioned hoe down
My lady love and me.

Hand in hand and circle right
Hand in hand and circle left
Do-si-do and don't be slow
To swing your pretty partner.

Suzie: Well come on kids we'd better go or we'll be late.

1st G: O.K. We're ready.

2nd G: Here's your sweater, Suzie.

1st B: Let's go. Boy am I hungry.

2nd B: Yeah, I can almost taste that barbeque already.

Phone: Rings off stage

Mrs. L: (hurries out on stage just as the group is leaving) Oh, wait a minute Suzie dear. I'm so sorry but that was your father on the phone and he's bringing that new man from the office home to dinner. I can't possibly get a company dinner ready in time unless you stay awhile and help.

Suzie: Oh mother! My whole life has to be ruined just because some old creep is coming to dinner. I'll simply die!

(friends act sympathetic)

Mrs. L: Now Suzie, don't act like that. Your father can drive you over as soon as he gets home and you'll only be a little late.

1st G: Sure Suzie, we'll just be getting the barbeque ready for the first hour. You won't miss anything.

2nd G: You'll just be working here instead of there.

1st G: Only here you won't be getting any smoke in your eyes.

Suzie: O.K. one of you stay here and help Mother.

1st G: Oh no, thanks any way

2nd G: See you later. Bye! (All leave stage. Suzie & mother one way, kids the other)

-2-
SCENE II

Mother and Suzie come out on porch.

Mrs. L. Well, everything is ready but the finishing touches, and they should be here any minute.

Suzie; I don't care. I think it's mean of Daddy to bring some old man home to dinner just when-----

Mrs. L. Hush! Here they come. Now do be civil Suzanne.

(Suzie turns and folds her arms in a pout)

Mr. L. Well, here we are Greg. I'd like you to meet my wife Helen and my daughter Suzanne. Girls, this is Gregory Brent.

Suzie: (Suzie turns and her mouth drops open in surprise. She shakes hands in an awed manner then looks down at her square dance dress in horror.) Oh dear! I mean, well, excuse this awful outfit. I didn't have time to change--

Greg: Why, I think you look charming. Now, if you were planning to go out don't let me detain you any longer.

Suzie: Oh no! I mean I wouldn't think of going out now. It was just a little barbeque and square dancing with some children I know. I didn't really want to go anyway. Won't you excuse me please? I'll be back in a minute. (goes off stage trying to walk very sophisticated and trips over door sill while looking back and smiling at Greg)

Mrs. L. (exchanges astonished looks with her husband then shrugs) Well, you men make yourselves comfortable and I'll put the finishing touches on dinner. (leaves stage left)

(The two men sit down as a young boy comes on stage right with bat, ball and glove)

Tommy: Hi dad!

Mr. L. Hello son. This is Mr. Brent from my office. Greg, this is my son Tommy.

Greg: (stands up and shakes hands) Well hi Tommy, it looks like you're a baseball player.

Tommy: Yes sir. I'm pitcher for the West End Wallopers.

Greg: Good boy! Did you have a game this afternoon?

Tommy: Yeah! We played the Sout Side Sluggers and our team beat by sixteen!

Greg: You don't say! Sixteen to nothing?

Tommy: (proudly) No! It was 36 to 52!

Mr. L. The boys have rather long games. (he is laughing)

Greg: (obviously very amused) Oh, I see.

Mrs. L: (coming back on stage) Everything's on the table. Oh, hello Tommy. You'd better run and wash. Where is Suzie?

Mr. L: I don't know. She said she'd be right back, but she was acting sort of---strange.

Greg: It's my fault. I'm afraid I spoiled her plans.

Mrs. L: Oh no you didn't. She's just at that unpredictable age. Suzie! Hurry up, dear, dinner's ready. Suzie!

Tommy: I wish she'd come on I'm starved.

Mrs. L: Suzie, where are you? Suzanne Elizabeth Lynn!

Suzie: (off stage) I'm coming!

(others stall if necessary saying such things as "I wonder what she's doing" etc. until Suzie appears at the door in a slinky black dress, high heels and lots of dangling jewelry. She walks on stage like a Ziegfield girl to the tune of St. Louis Blues while everyone watches in astonishment.)

Tommy: (Walks all the way around Suzie) Whew! She smells worse than she looks!

Mrs. L: Tommy!

Suzie: That's perfume! It's My Sin from Paris!

Tommy: Well, I knew it was SOMEBODY'S sin!

Mrs. L: Tommy, that's enough!

Greg: (offers his arm to Suzie) May I have the pleasure of escorting you to the table Miss Lynn?

Suzie: Oh, yes! (Takes Greg's arm and walks off with him, throwing back a murderous look at Tommy.)

Tommy: (imitates Suzie's walk and grabs a couple of crystal danglers from a table lamp and holds them up to his ears and sings:

I'm in the mood for love simply because of Gregory
Gregory you're so heavenly! I'm in the mood for love!

Mrs. L: (takes the crystals and swats Tommy off stage saying "The very idea!")

SCENE IV

Greg: Well, that was a fine dinner. Your wife is a good cook.

Mr. L: Thanks, but I don't know what got into Suzie tonight. The way she kept looking at you with those goggle eyes it's a wonder you could eat.

Greg: (laughing) Oh that was nothing. I have a sister her age and you should see the way she acts when I bring friends home. I know how to handle situations like this. Just make yourself scarce when she comes out and leave everything to me.

(Mother, Suzie, and Tommy come on stage.)

Greg: Won't you sit here, Miss Lynn?

Mr. L: Say, I just thought of something I want you to help me with Helen. Come on Tommy, you can help too.

Mrs. L: But John-----

Mr. L: (takes her arm and grabs Tommy) Come on!

Greg: Well, I'm glad they left us alone. (takes her hand) May I call you Suzanne?

Suzie: (shyly) Of course,---Gregory.

Greg: You know, I think fate brought us together.

Suzie: (surprised) You do?

Greg: Oh, I'm sure of it. You're just the kind of girl I've always wanted to meet.

Suzie: I---I am?

Greg: Yes indeed. The kind of girl who would rather stay at home than go out with the crowd. All the other girls I know are always wanting me to take them somewhere. To dances or to the movies or something else equally ridiculous.

Suzie: (looking a bit sick) Yes, isn't that ridiculous?

Greg: I like the more serious things like lectures and concerts, don't you?

Suzie: (Now almost frightened) Well, I-----I-----don't know.

Greg: (starts to put his arm around Suzie's shoulders) There's a lecture at the Bird wathher's club tomorrow. "ould you---

Suzie: (jumps up from the couch nearly falling on her high heels) No, I'm sorry I'll be very busy all day tommorrow.

Greg: (Starts to phase her around the couch) Well, Saturday there's a concert---

Suzie: (kicks off her shouls so she can run) No, I'm busy then too.

Greg: How about---

Suzie: I'll be busy for weeks and weeks! Daddy, Mother!

Mother, father and Tommy all rush in.

Mr. L: What is it?

Suzie: Daddy, I've been thinking, the gang is probably waiting for me and I hate to disappoint them. Could you drive me over there now?

Mr. L: Well, I suppose so.

Mrs. L: That's a wise decision dear, but run in and change your dress. You can't go like that.

Suzie: Yes mother. (dashes off)

Mr. L: (shakes hands with Greg) Well Greg, it seems to me a smart young man like you deserves a raise.

Greg: Thank you, sir, but I'm not sure I like being on Suzie's drip list. She makes me wish I was ten years younger.

Tommy: (Off stage singing can be heard and Tommy runs to look) Look! It's a hay wagon.

Mrs. L. Why it's Suzie's crowd.

(young people walk on stage singing)

Waiting for Suzie, waiting for Suzie, waiting for Suzie and
We'll all take a ride.
Where oh where is Suzie she's always by my side,
We're waiting for Suzie then we'll all take a ride.
Waiting for Suzie, waiting for Suzie, waiting for Suzie and
We'll all take a ride.

1st. G: Where's Suzie? She's missing all the fun.

2nd G: Yes, we're having a hay ride.

3rd. G: Hey suzie, hurry up! We're waiting for you.

1st. G: What's keeping her, anyway?

Tommy: She fell in love with the man who came to dinner.

1st. G: Oh you're kidding. Suzie, where are you?

Suzie: Here I am. Sorry to keep you waiting. Jeepers, a hay ride!

2nd. G: Yes, we're going to the dance in style.

1st. B: Will you save a dance for me, Suzie?

2nd B: Me too?

Suzie: Sure!

All: Suzie Lynn, Suzie Lynn, save a dance for me
We'll swing our partners round and round at the Teen Town Jubilee.
Oh Suzie, oh Suzie, save a dance for me,
We'll swing our partners round and round at the Teen Town Jubilee.

(curtain)

Curtain Call: So our story has to end for the minutes allotted us are ten
But the moral we must ell, act your age and all is well.